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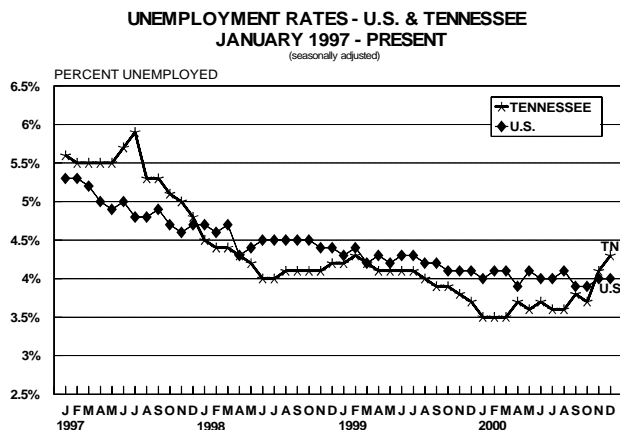
NASHVILLE—The state's unemployment rate for December is 4.3 percent, up two-tenths of a percentage point over the month, Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development Michael E. Magill announced today. The national rate remained unchanged over the month at 4.0 percent.

According to Magill, unemployment figures saw a rise due to the state's slow job growth rate and an increase in the number of individuals coming into the labor force.

"Though Tennessee's unemployment rate for December did increase slightly, the state's unemployment outlook remains stable," Magill stated. "The number of individuals looking for employment increased over the month and the job growth rate slowed, which led to a rise in the unemployment rate."

Over-the-month figures showed the retail industry adding 7,500 jobs, with 2,400 of those in general merchandise and 2,100 of those in miscellaneous retail. Industrial machinery/equipment increased by 700. The services industry decreased by 1,300 jobs, while manufacturing lost 1,100 jobs and state government decreased by 400.

From December 1999 to December 2000, Tennessee added 24,700 jobs, with 13,300 in the services industry. Retail trade added 10,700, and construction was up by 5,200. Employment declined by 11,000 in manufacturing with 3,400 of those lost in apparel.



LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

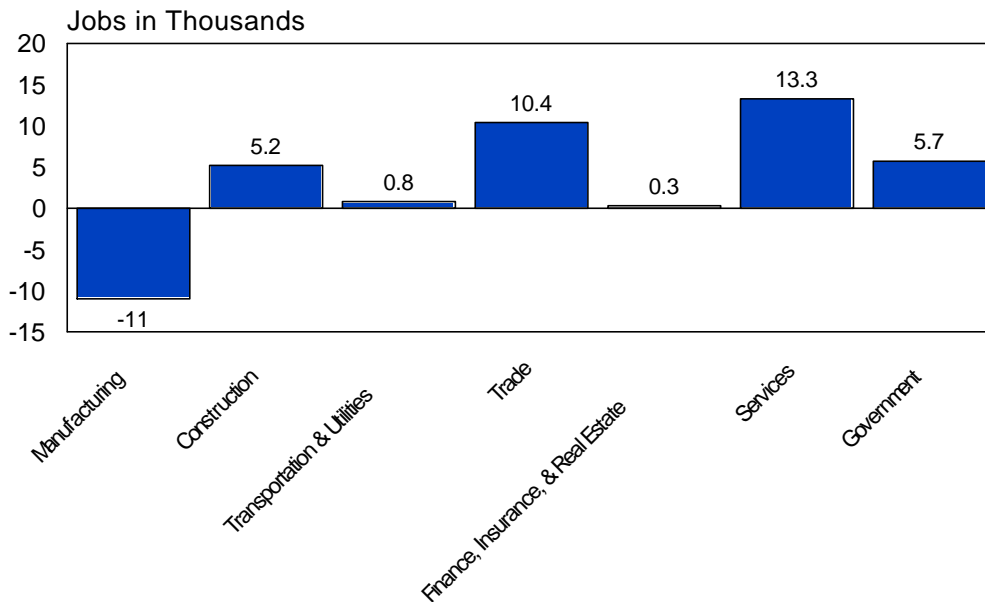
December 2000 (preliminary) - BM 1999

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate Change
				Dec.	Nov.	
UNITED STATES	141,489,000	135,836,000	5,653,000	4.0 %	4.0 %	0.0 %
TENNESSEE	2,857,500	2,734,000	123,500	4.3	4.1	0.2

Not Seasonally Adjusted						
UNITED STATES	141,319,000	136,092,000	5,227,000	3.7 %	3.8 %	-0.1 %
TENNESSEE	2,845,900	2,738,300	107,600	3.8	4.0	-0.2

OVER THE YEAR JOB GROWTH

By Major Industry (December 1999-2000)



County and MSA rates will be released on Thursday, January 25, 2001.

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NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures." Sound may be obtained from the Governor's NewsLine at 1-800-342-1483 or Nashville area 741-4877.

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.